

## 2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Gates of the Arctic National Park

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

### 2. Fiscal Year

2018

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Park Service Subsistence Resource Commission-Gates  
of the Arctic National Park

### 3b. GSA

### Committee No.

555

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

### 5. Current Charter

08/08/2012

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

### 7. Expected Term Date

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

P.L. 96-487

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

P.L. 96-487

### 13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this  
Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2 Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations, and other related regulatory proposals.	11/14/2017	11/15/2017
Develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations, and other related regulatory proposals.	04/17/2018	04/18/2018

### Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$105,429.00	\$110,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$8,900.00	\$7,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00

<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$3,420.00	\$3,700.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$750.00	\$800.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$118,499.00	\$121,500.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	1.15	1.15

## **20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The Commission is an advisory group. Federal law and regulation provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses, including hunting, within the Gates of the Arctic National Park. The Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park is a forum that promotes effective communication and mutual understanding of subsistence uses and related cultural resources. The Commission consults with every appropriate local advisory committee and regional council for comment and input on draft hunting plan recommendations. In addition to the advisory committee and regional council consultation process directed by P.L. 96-847 (the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act), the Commission is required to hold public meetings in all areas affected by the subsistence hunting program. The Commission's recommendations will help the NPS to ensure the continuation of the opportunity for local rural residents to engage in the subsistence use of resources in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The NPS has adopted the following mission statement to guide its activities. Subsistence will be managed as a legislated use consistent with the provisions of ANILCA (Section 202), the Organic Act of 1916, and parks's enabling legislation to:

- protect the opportunity for qualified local rural residents to continue traditional subsistence activities
- recognize that subsistence ways of life differ from region to region and are continuing to evolve, and where appropriate, park management practices may reflect regional diversity and evolution
- promote local involvement and participation in processes associated with subsistence management
- ensure that management practices involving the utilization of public lands adequately consider the potential for restriction of subsistence uses and impacts upon subsistence resources
- ensure that management of park resources is consistent with the conservation of unimpaired ecosystems and natural and healthy populations of fish and wildlife, incorporating scientific data and principles with traditional knowledge and cultural values and
- promote effective communication and mutual understanding of subsistence uses and related cultural and social values, and park purposes and protection, between the NPS, subsistence users, the State of Alaska and the public.

The Gates of the Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission met in Allakaket on April 17-18, 2018. There was ample discussion on the Ambler Mining District Road, with the National Park Service providing updates, Allakaket and Alatna tribal members providing testimony, and SRC members sharing information about their comment letter that went to both the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management. NPS

presented information on proposed wildlife regulations for hunting and trapping in national preserves that are in the process of being amended. The Commission took action to send a welcome letter to Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to introduce themselves and share their concerns about the Ambler Mining District Road. Additionally, NPS staff provided updates on both natural and cultural resources. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2018 in Fairbanks. During FY 2018, the Commission continued to monitor Federal Subsistence Program wildlife regulatory proposals, and consulted with the NPS on wildlife management issues related to Ambler road development proposals. To develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations, and other related regulatory proposals and resource management issues. The NPS SRC program is authorized under Title VIII, Section 808 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Public Law 96-487.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

Membership, as prescribed by the Commission's enabling legislation, consists of nine members as follows: (a) three members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior; (b) three members appointed by the Governor of Alaska; and (c) three members appointed by the regional council, as established by the Secretary or the State pursuant to section 805 of P.L. 96-487. The members include a range of individuals having personal knowledge of the region's subsistence conditions, and having an interest in Federal subsistence management.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

Meetings are generally held twice a year, or as often as circumstances require. Commission recommendations are vitally important on matters relating to the taking of wildlife within the park, and are the foundation for the development and review of the subsistence hunting program.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park was established by Congress to devise and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska a program for subsistence hunting within Gates of the Arctic National Park. The Commission's unique insight on local customary and traditional patterns of subsistence use within the park has been important in developing workable subsistence hunting plan recommendations.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

All meetings are open.

## 21. Remarks

During FY 2018, the Commission met two times to review and consider development of subsistence program recommendations for Gates of the Arctic National Park. (1) EXPECTED CHARTER RENEWAL DATE -- The FACA section 14(b) biennial rechartering requirement has been waived for this committee by P.L. 102-525, October 26, 1992. (2) EXPECTED COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE/TERMINATION AUTHORITY -- The Commission's enabling legislation, P.L. 96-487, provides for continuation of the Commission into the foreseeable future, without termination. (3) MEMBERSHIP -- In accordance with the Commission Charter and with P.L. 102-525, members may continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until successors are appointed.

### Designated Federal Officer

Greg Dudgeon Superintendent

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bifelt, Hugh	11/04/2014	11/04/2020	Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Commack, Louie	11/04/2004	11/04/2020	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Fickus, Tim	06/21/2001	11/04/2018	Subsistence Hunter and Trapper	Representative Member
Hepa, Raynita (Taquilik)	11/04/2000	11/04/2018	Research Specialist, Subsistence User	Representative Member
Hugo, Ester	11/04/2016	11/04/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Reakoff, Jack	02/01/2001	11/01/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member
Simon, Pollock	11/04/1982	11/04/2018	Chair Fish and Game Local Advisory Committee/Subsistence Hunter	Representative Member
Woods, Raymond	11/01/2016	11/01/2019	Subsistence User	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 8**

### Narrative Description

The Subsistence Resource Commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park has been established by the Congress to devise and recommend to the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Alaska a program for subsistence hunting within Gates of the Arctic National Park. The Commission's unique insight on local customary and traditional patterns of subsistence use within the park has been important in developing workable recommendations. During FY 2018, the Commission did not submit any formal hunting plan recommendations to the Secretary of Interior. However at the April 17 -18, 2018, meeting: the Commission took the following actions:1) The Commission adopted a motion

invite the Secretary of Interior to a future meeting. The letter would also include information about the Commission's concerns regarding the Ambler Mining District Road.2) The Commission adopted a motion to send a comment letter to the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, stating their concerns about the Ambler Mining District Road and how detrimental boat access and all-terrain vehicle use on the Kobuk River would be. The Commission continues to monitor issues related to Hunting Plan Recommendation 10-01. The Commission and National Park Service are working together to address concerns for management of wildlife populations within the national park and preserve.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Trust in government                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Effective grant making                            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Outcome Comments**

During FY 2018, the Commission did not submit any formal hunting plan recommendations to the Secretary of Interior. The Commission continues to monitor issues related to Hunting Plan Recommendation 10-01. The Commission and National Park Service are working together to address concerns for management of wildlife populations within the national park and preserve.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

## Cost Savings Comments

NA

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

20

## Number of Recommendations Comments

During FY 2018, the Commission did not submit any formal hunting plan recommendations to the Secretary of Interior. The Commission continues to monitor issues related to Hunting Plan Recommendation 10-01. The Commission and National Park Service are working together to address concerns for management of wildlife populations within the national park and preserve. Gates of HPR 87-1(#1)Expand Communications between Park Managers and Local Residents. Better communication will help develop an appreciation of cultural values of local people by managers. Recommendation important, but goes beyond the authority of the SRC as set forth in Section 808 of ANILCA. The park superintendent realizing the importance of the recommendation implemented a policy requiring staff to advise and brief the SRC on permit and policy actions during regular SRC meetings. HPR 87-2(#2)Eligibility and Resident Zones New residents of resident zone communities should be required to live full-time in that community for 12 months to qualify for subsistence uses within the park. If changes occur in any resident zone community that significantly alter subsistence uses in the park, or if a resident zone is deleted the SRC recommends a permit system be substituted for the resident zone to ensure that subsistence needs are protected. The issue of resident zone and eligibility is clearly within the purview of the SRC. ANILCA does not allow for a durational (12 month) residency requirement. Congress intended regs. to protect the lifestyles of residents who have or are a family member that has an established and historical pattern of subsistence use in the park. No action taken by NPS. SRC modified the recommendation and resubmitted the new version to the Secretary in 1992. HPR 87-3(#3)ACCESS SRC supports Anaktuvuk Pass land exchange agreement. SRC requests clarification of NPS policies relating to travel via commercial airlines between villages in or near the park. NPS regs. should be revised to allow subsistence hunters to travel via aircraft between communities for subsistence hunting purposes. ATVDOI supports ATV land exchange negotiations. Aircraft Use Use of scheduled airlines as a means of accessing the park for subsistence hunting purposes would take a person out of their community's traditional use area. ATV After DOI failed to finalize the ATV land exchange the SRC resubmitted a similar recommendation in

1992.Aircraft UseSRC resubmitted a revised aircraft recommendation in 1992.HPR 87-4(#4))Areas of Traditional Use SRC opposed the establishment of areas of traditional use. Congress was clear in its intent to have the SRC and NPS identify traditional use areas and to have some areas of the park closed to subsistence hunting. SRC resubmitted a revised traditional use areas recommendation in 1992.HPR

87-5(#5)Regulation of Subsistence Uses of Fish and Wildlife in the GAAR SRC supports harvests of fish and wildlife by local rural residents. SRC supports the ADFG regulatory management system as long as it complies with ANILCA. SRC's recommendation important, NPS and ADFG are not always able to consult with each other. No action taken by DOI/NPS.No action taken by SRCHPR 87-6(#6)Review of NPS Subsistence Permits SRC requests the NPS to provide SRC with an annual status report on all NPS

subsistence policy issues, permit applications for cabin aircraft and subsistence uses. Recommendation important, but Recommendation 87-6 goes beyond the authority of the SRC as set forth in Section 808 of ANILCA. No action taken by DOI/NPS or SRCHPR

87-7(#7)Research Needs and Monitoring SRC requests NPS to work with ADFG and other agencies to expand existing resource data base DOI supported recommendation.DOI directed the NPS to continue work developing a long range

subsistence research strategy. NPS incorporated SRC recommendations in the GAAR Resource Management Plan 1994.HPR 92-1(#8)Eligibility and Resident Zones NPS qualified subsistence users are entitled to hunt and trap in the park pursuant to NPS 36 CFR and ANILCA 804 guidelines. SRC support resident zone concept. If a resident zone community is deleted SRC supports roster and individual permit systems. DOI supported recommendation.Directed the NPS to conduct studies within the park's resident zones communities to determine that a significant concentration of local rural residents with a personal or family history of subsistence uses of park resources currently resides within each resident zone community. NPS has identified the proposed subsistence studies in the park Resource Management Plan.Wiseman subsistence studyHPR

92-3(#9)ACCESSA. AircraftB. All Terrain Vehicle Use(ATV) NPS should change its policy/regulations to allow subsistence hunters to fly between villages prior to entering the park to take wildlife. Travel between villages located outside the park should not be considered a violation of NPS regulations.ATVSR supports the proposed land exchange agreement negotiated among NPS, Nunamiut Corp. Arctic Slope Regional Corp. and City of Anaktuvuk Pass to resolve the ATV use issue.Until agreement is final NPS should allow ATV use in the park under a special permit. Use of aircraft to access the park for subsistence taking of wildlife is prohibited, however NPS regs. provide for exceptions under a special permit authority.Air travel between communities for subsistence purposes may take persons out of their community's traditional use area causing increased competition among subsistence users.ATVDOI supported the SRC's recommendation. NPS allowed ATV use to continue under permit and special study. A solicitor's opinion

issued in April 1986 supports the current policy that prohibits use of aircraft to access the park for subsistence taking of wildlife. The NPS is currently evaluating its subsistence aircraft access policy in the Subsistence Issue Paper review process. ATV1996, Congress finalized and approved land exchange agreement. HPR 92-3(#10) Areas of Traditional Use SRC recommends that the entire park is a traditional use area for all eligible subsistence users. This is based on past testimony from village elders and local residents. ANILCA and NPS regs. limit subsistence use in the park to those areas where such uses are traditional. DOI directed the NPS to identify contemporary and historical community traditional subsistence use areas within the park. Based on the data in the study, NPS was directed to initiate a process to identify traditional subsistence hunting use areas within the park. The NPS is evaluating its traditional use area policy in the Subsistence Issue Paper review. There are 5 parks responsible for this determination. HPR 92-4(#11) Impacts on Subsistence Hunting and Land Use Decisions BLM Recreational Area Management Plan for the Dalton Highway Corridor failed to consider potential Section 810 impacts to park. SRC requested BLM staff to meet with local people. DOI supported SRC recommendation. DOI directed BLM staff to meet with the residents of Wiseman to discuss proposed management actions near the park within the Utility Corridor. BLM conducted additional public meetings as directed by DOI. HPR 92-5(#12) Tanana Chiefs Conference Research Resolution SRC support Tanana Chiefs Conference Resolution #92-85. NPS should explore contracting research projects through native corporations or rural Alaskan oriented researchers in future studies. DOI supports recommendation. DOI is supportive of concerns for consultation and participation in subsistence hunting related research. NPS has used and will continue to use existing authorities to cooperate with Native and other appropriate organizations that meet NPS research standards. GAAR Resource Management Plan contains studies that propose research contract agreements with native organizations. HPR 92-6(#13) Need for Oral History Documentation for Resident Zone Communities. SRC requests NPS to fund project to document oral histories for the 10 resident communities. and other knowledgeable local residents of the park. DOI supported recommendation and directed NPS to fund oral history interview projects. The Resource Management Plan for the park contains oral history project proposals. NPS assisted UAA staff with Juke Box Oral History Project. HPR-93-7(#14) Implement Section 809 Cooperative Agreements of ANILCA Public Law 96-487 SRC directed DOI/NPS to enter into a cooperative agreement with the North Slope Borough, North West Arctic Borough and the Tanana Chiefs Conference Inc under Section 809 of ANILCA to develop/prepare the SRC Subsistence Hunting Plan, DOI supports recommendation. A hunting plan should be prepared using a variety of technical data after consultation with local advisory committees and regional councils. Cooperative agreements are an important vehicle for developing hunting plans. NPS will continue to explore both formal and informal cooperative relationships. It would not be appropriate to



transfer the responsibility for devising a hunting plan to some other entity other than the SRC The NPS is evaluating the SRC Hunting Plan policy in the Subsistence Issue Paper review. HPR 93-8(#15)Opposition to the Proposed Permanent Dalton Highway to Bettles Road Project. SRC opposes the construction of a year round road to Bettles due to the potential for disruption of subsistence activities and increased competition for resources. DOI /NPS took a neutral position regarding the road project. If federal lands are involved in the proposed State project a Section 810 evaluation will be completed. No action taken by NPS or SRC, HPR 93-9(#16)Gates of the Arctic National Park and Traditional Use Area. SRC requested to meet with Asst. Secretary of the Interior, to further explain the SRC position that the entire park is a traditional use area for all eligible subsistence users. DOI has not responded to HPR 93-9. The NPS is evaluating its traditional use area policy in the Subsistence Issue Paper review. There are 5 parks responsible for this determination. HPR 93-10(#17)Monitor Moose, Caribou, and Sheep Populations SRC suggests that regular monitoring of these important species is essential to maintaining natural and healthy wildlife populations and to ensure continued subsistence opportunities. DOI has not responded to HPR 93-10. The GAAR Resource Management Plan contains wildlife monitoring/study proposals. HPR 95-11(#18)Customary and Traditional Use Determinations SRC recommended that all qualified park subsistence users be determined to have a positive C&T Use Determination for all species of fish and wildlife within the park. The existing Federal Program provides the mechanism for C&T determinations on NPS lands. SRC continues to submit C&T proposals to the Federal Subsistence Board. DRAFT HPR 97-12(#19)Residency Requirement for Cabin Use on Public Lands SRC recommends a change in NPS cabin regs./Change continuous occupancy requirement from 4 to 12 months. SRC sent DRAFT HPR 97-12 to public, local advisory committees and regional councils for review and comment. After review of comments SRC voted to take no further action on Draft HPR 97 of the Arctic National Park received a response to the following Hunting Program Recommendation #99-01(#20) Customary Trade from the Secretary of the Interior and the National Park Service Alaska Regional

Director.-----Hunting Program

Recommendation 99-01 (#20): Customary Trade The National Park Service should revise customary trade regulations for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to better reflect traditional practices of local residents. The Commission recommended regulatory revisions to accommodate the following local customary practices: 1) Gathering plant materials for making and selling of handicrafts. These wild renewable materials include, but are not limited to roots, tree bark, wood and lichens. Uses include, but are not limited to making of snowshoes, dogsleds, baskets and various arts and crafts, etc. The materials are harvested in very limited amounts and the practice is not detrimental to park resources. 2) Another practice overlooked in National Park Service regulations is the small

scale manufacture of handicraft articles from horn, antler and bone which are shed or are from animals that have died naturally or such parts discarded or by other subsistence users. The large-scale sale of these resources should not be allowed. The making of handicrafts is labor intensive, time consuming and inherently limits the amount of resource that is sought and utilized. The Secretary's response stated that the recommendation would be evaluated through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Depending on the outcome of evaluation, regulations may then be developed under formal rule making.-----

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

60%

**% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

Not Applicable

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

40%

**% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

Not Applicable

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

**Agency Feedback Comments**

Not Applicable

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Action Comments**

Not Applicable

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

**Grant Review Comments**

Not Applicable

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO



Online Agency Web Site



Online Committee Web Site



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other

**Access Comments**

Information on Gates of the Arctic National Park may be found at:

<http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/aoac.htm>